

On November 6,  
Vote your values.



Vote Your Values commercial/video

## 'Vote Your Values'

### MBCB-produced video hits airwaves, Internet

JACKSON, Ms. (Special) — Mississippi Baptists will soon begin seeing a specially-produced television commercial and Internet video crafted by their convention board to encourage citizens of the state to go to the polls on Nov. 6 and "Vote Your Values."

The Vote Your Values commercial/video, 30 seconds in length, was written by William H. Perkins, Jr., editor of The Baptist Record, the weekly news journal of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB);

produced and directed by Ian Richardson, MBCB director of communication services; and designed by Lynn Bullock, a member of Park Place Church and owner of Lynn Bullock Productions, Inc., both in Brandon.

"In producing Vote Your Values for television and Internet, our mission is to be intentional and active in using these available communication tools to effectively reach our churches and communities with this important message," said Richardson.

"The 30-second television

spot will begin airing October 8 and run through November 6 on 11 stations throughout Mississippi and Tennessee," he said. "The video is also available for download by everyone, free of charge, in multiple formats from the MBCB web site, www.mbc.org."

"We encourage our churches to take advantage of this download and show it during worship services and other church events before Nov. 6."

Perkins said the commercial/video is non-partisan and designed only to get people to the polls. "We are concerned about issues, not candidates. We want the people of Mississippi to

see VALUES on p. 9

## Central Hills to host Overnight Trail Ride on November 9-10

By William H. Perkins, Jr.  
Editor

Mississippi Baptist Convention President David Hamilton plans to bring his lifelong love of horses with him to Central Hills Retreat for the first-ever Overnight Trail Ride on Nov. 9-10.

"I grew up riding horses," said Hamilton, pastor of West Heights Church, Pontotoc. "My Dad always kept horses on our farm and I've just always enjoyed them. I have five horses and one pony which I got for my grandson."

"During my junior high and senior high school years, I showed at the local shows around home. Now I just ride for pleasure and relaxation. There are a number of guys in our church and around our community that I ride with, mostly just trail riding. I have also had several opportunities to minister through horses."

Hamilton struck up a conversation about organizing a trail ride some time back with Don Lum, evangelism director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. There was no such event on the MBCB calendar, and both agreed it was a concept worth pursuing. They brought in Central Hills Retreat Manager Jim Ray, whose Mississippi Baptist Royal Ambassadors encampment near Kosciusko has horses and a trail riding program for the young campers who usually populate the facility.

"I thought it sounded like a great idea," Ray said. "We have been working on the riding trails and getting them in shape. It's one of our most popular camp features. They'll have a great time here, and they will certainly receive a warm welcome."

Hamilton has ironed out the final details for the pilot event with Lum and Ray, and he's ready to hit the trails. "I have two friends who will be coming to share, one through music and the other through cowboy poetry. This will be a great time of fun, food, fellowship, and opportunities to reach people for Jesus. I

encourage anyone who has a love for horses to come to Central Hills and join us on this first trail ride, which we hope can become an annual event."

Cost is \$45 per person and includes room or RV hookup, Friday dinner and activities, Saturday breakfast, and Saturday lunch. Local riders are invited to ride on Saturday morning at a cost of \$15 per person (includes lunch). Registration form is required, and riders 17 years of age and under must be accompanied by an adult. The event is limited to 60 overnight guests.

Participants should plan to arrive at Central Hills Retreat after 3 p.m. on Nov. 9, and must bring their own horses. Up-to-date Coggins is required.

For more information and to receive registration forms, contact Ray at Central Hills Baptist Retreat, 6377 Attala Road 4227, West, MS 39192. Telephone: 662-289-9730. E-mail: jray@mbcb.org. Lum, contacted at Jackson, Ms. Telephone: (800) 748-1 or toll-free (800) 748-1 E-mail: dlum

## PREACH THE WORD

### Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference

October 29, 2012 • First Baptist Church, Jackson

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine." 2 Timothy 4:22

#### Afternoon Session

1:15 p.m. Jim Henry.....Orlando, Florida  
LaRue Stephens.....Long Beach  
Dean Register.....Hattiesburg

#### Evening Session

6:15 p.m. Andy Fullington.....Terry  
Jim Shaddix.....Birmingham, AL

**Music:** Jim Lott, minister of music/associate pastor of North Columbia Church, Columbia; North Columbia Church Ensemble; Wyndy South, consultant for the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; and others.

For more information, contact Mike Grenn, president, 2012 Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference, at mikegrenn11@gmail.com.

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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

# Our persecuted brothers and sisters

**Y**ousef Nadarkhani may not be the type of all-American moniker to which we're accustomed in this country, but it became a household name as the native Iranian pastor was threatened with execution by his own government for standing firm in his faith in Jesus Christ.

Imprisoned since 2009 for a variety of ever-changing charges that ranged from apostasy to sexual crimes, the married father of three was essentially jailed for refusing to deny his Savior and "return" to his alleged previous Muslim faith. Shifted from prison to prison in Iran, he was under a daily threat of death from both the government and from his Muslim fellow inmates.

He never wavered, even when it would have been easier for him to accept the Iranian government's demands that he renounce his Christian faith. According to the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLU), which took up Nadarkhani's legal case and spoke up for him in the international news media, he was given four opportunities in September of 2011 alone to turn his back on Jesus. One court exchange reported by ACLU went like this: "Repent means to return. What should I return to? To the blasphemy that I had before my faith in Christ?" he asked. "To the religion of your ancestors, Islam," the judge reportedly replied. "I cannot," Nadarkhani said. Back to prison he went.

The international outcry for Nadarkhani's worsening plight was deafening. The Iranian government finally capitulated to the pressure and released him from prison in early September, after convicting him of apostasy and sentencing him to time already served.

Prayers of thanksgiving went skyward. Celebrations were held. Nadarkhani settled in with the wife and three children from which he had been deprived for so long.

A happy ending? For Nadarkhani and his family, yes. For the Christian pastors and practitioners who still sit in squalid Iranian jails, not so much. They are still awaiting an international movement on their behalf that would free them and return them to their families.

According to a recent FoxNews report by Perry Chiaramonte, many more Christians and members of

other faiths remain jailed under the Islamist theocracy that rules Iran with an iron fist.

"Iran has amped up its systematic persecution of Christians over the last year, closing churches, burning Bibles, imprisoning believers, and using threats and intimidation tactics to suppress religious expression," Tiffany Barrans, ACLU's international legal director, told Chiaramonte.

In one case related to Chiaramonte by Barrans, Christian pastor Farshid Fathi has been incarcerated in Tehran's Evin prison — the worst of the worst in Iran — since December 2010 for what the ACLU describes as simply practicing his Christian faith.

Another Christian pastor cited by ACLU in the FoxNews article is Behnam Irani, who is serving six years in Ghezel Hesar prison in Karaj for alleged "actions against the state," after he preached to a group of converted Christians in a house church as well as sharing his faith with Muslims. He is said to be in failing health.

A Christian woman, Maryam Jali, was listed in the FoxNews report as having been sent to Evin prison for "membership in an illegal group" and apostasy after she and 14 other Christians celebrated Christmas at a house church in Pakdasht in 2009. One can only imagine the horrors experienced by a female Christian in the Iran prison system.

There are undoubtedly many more Christians in the jails and prisons of Iran. There are many more countries like Iran that persecute religious minorities. It may be hard for Americans to believe, since we consider not being able to find the latest cell phone in stores a major personal crisis, that believers around the world are being martyred even today for the cause of Christ — and there will be more tomorrow, and more the day after, and more the day after that...

What are you willing to do for them? Are you willing to pray without ceasing for these bold believers and their brave families, and for the billions of lost people around the world? Are you willing to tell everyone you know of the Good News? Are you willing to take a stand for Jesus, no matter the cost? Are you willing to go where He leads, to save souls?

That's all they ask, really. They're willing to endure the rest.

## The evangelical's duties as American voter

**E**arlier this year, in the midst of the presidential primary season, I was asked to address a group of Southern Baptist pastors on the question of Christian faith and political engagement.

Though no one knew for sure who the candidates would be at that time, the first question I was asked was, "How should an evangelical Christian decide who to support in this election?" That was a legitimate question, and has prompted me to think of some wider implications.

■ We should be grateful to live in a representative democracy where the right to vote and the rule of law are respected. Such has not always been the case, even in our own country, as the history of slavery, women's suffrage, and the struggle for civil rights indicates.

Freedom is ever under assault from without and within. Religious liberty and political responsibility are closely related. If we default on the latter, we may well forfeit the former.

Vote!

■ The American republic was founded on a clear distinction between church and state, as the First Amendment shows, but this has never meant the separation of faith from public life. What we believe about ultimate matters has a direct bearing on how we deal with issues of everyday life. What is a human being? How do we foster a society where justice prevails? How do we construct "a more perfect union" for the common good? These are profoundly moral and spiritual questions, as well as political ones.

While IRS regulations forbid pastors and religious leaders from endorsing particular candidates (a rule that should be reversed in the interest of free speech), there is no prohibition against addressing the great moral issues of our time, all of which have political implications. Michelle Obama was completely correct in her remark at the African Methodist Episcopal Church's General Conference in June. She claimed that "there is no better place than church" to talk about political issues because they are ultimately moral issues.

Distinguish!



**Guest opinion**  
with Timothy George

■ In the Manhattan Declaration, Chuck Colson, Robert George, and I made a public argument, based on biblical wisdom and the right use of reason, that the three most pressing moral issues of our time are the sanctity of every human life from conception to natural death, marriage as a lifelong covenantal union of one man and one woman, and religious freedom for all persons. Of course, there are other issues that also call for Christian engagement: racial reconciliation, care of creation, immigration, education, care for the poor, and sex trafficking, among many others.

At other moments in history, other issues have claimed the attention of believers. For William Wilberforce, it was the abolition of the slave trade. For Dietrich Bonhoeffer, it was the persecution of the Jews. For Martin Luther King, Jr., it was the cause of civil rights. Today, life, marriage, and freedom are threshold issues that provide a basis for our concern about many other things. They are also the issues most under assault at this moment in our culture.

Discern!

■ There is a difference between Christian discernment and partisan politics. The Kingdom of Christ cannot be equated with any political party. Our current president, a Democrat, is the most pro-choice president in American history, and yet U.S. Supreme Court justices appointed by Republicans gave us *Roe v. Wade*.

What Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori said to Catholic voters applies to all Christians regardless of party affiliation: "The question to ask is this: Are any of

see GEORGE on p. 11

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# Trailblazing Baptist's story holds surprises for many

**PINEVILLE, La. (BP)** — In the same year the Southern Baptist Convention has elected its first African American president, historians are hailing the work of a former slave who established the first Baptist church west of the Mississippi River.

Joseph Willis was born a mulatto slave in 1758 Bladen County, N.C., to Agerton Willis, a wealthy white English plantation owner. Joseph's mother was Agerton's slave, reportedly Cherokee.

When Willis first applied for Baptist ordination, he was denied because of his mixed heritage, "...lest the cause of Christ should suffer reproach from the humble social position of his servant," William Paxton recorded in his 1888 book, *A History of the Baptists of Louisiana*.

"Both his color and his being a Baptist exposed him to violent prejudices, and he was often threatened with violence," Paxton wrote, referring to Willis' efforts to spread the Gospel where, until 1804, Louisiana's Black Code forbade any religion other than Catholicism.

One of Willis' descendants, genealogist and historian Randy Willis of Austin, Texas, has documented the church planter's life in his book, *Joseph Willis: The Apostle to the Opelousas*. The book is based on limited historical documents and rich oral history told by descendants of Willis, who married four times and fathered children into his late 70s.

"His life reads as a history book and a dramatic play performed on the stage of what was at the time a hostile and mostly unexplored foreign land. He first crossed the Mississippi River into the Louisiana Territory before October 1, 1800, the date Napoleon secured the Louisiana Territory from Spain," Randy Willis wrote.

"He lost three wives and several children in the wilderness, but he never wavered in his faith in Christ, nor that which he had been called to preach, the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ."

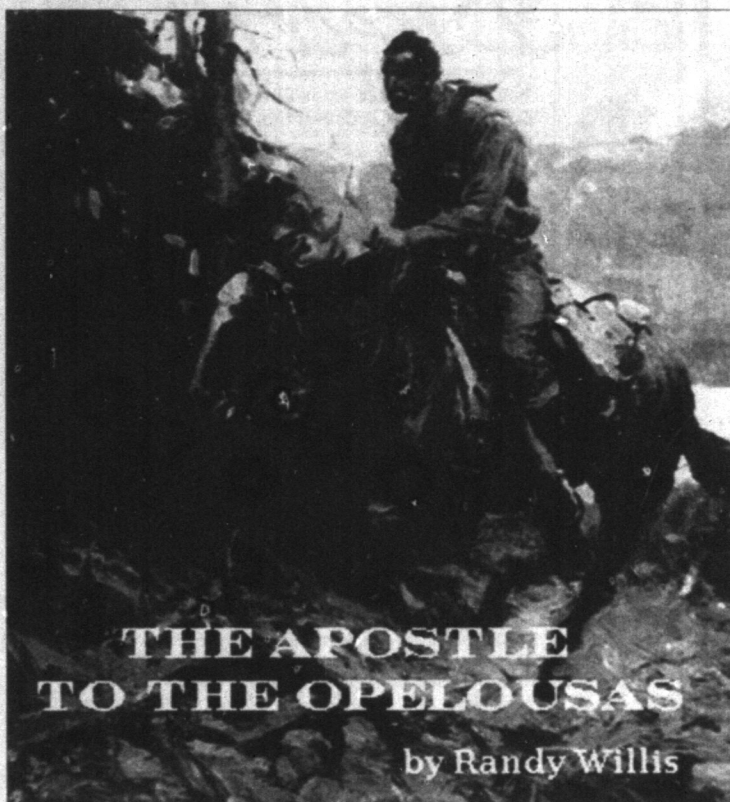
While the complete nature of the relationship between Joseph Willis' parents is not known, his parents would have been unable to marry one another because the law forbade interracial marriages. Indeed, his father never married.

The name of his mother and her heritage are not recorded in historical documents, and neither is the future evangelist's birth certificate. Rather, 1850 U.S. Census records in Alexandria, La., show that Willis told authorities his mother was Cherokee, Randy Willis wrote.

"We don't have her name. There's no record, other than his personal testimony," Randy Willis told Baptist Press in an interview.

Because of the treatment of Native Americans under the Andrew Jackson presidential administration and through the Civil War, Willis said, "a lot of records have been lost. The only thing I can go upon is his personal testimony. There's absolutely no records that say that she was Native American or say anything about her. He [Joseph] said that his mother was Cherokee Indian."

Years after Willis' 1854 death, he was shunned because many thought his mulatto designation indicated a mixture of the black and white races after Paxton described Willis as mulatto, Randy Willis said. In early 19th-century North Carolina, the term mulatto referred to a person of Indian or African blood to the fourth degree. Today, the term designates a first-generation mixture of white and African American ancestry.



**HEADED TO MISSION** — An artist's rendering of Joseph Willis on the cover of a biography by descendant Randy Willis depicts the pioneering church planter on his journey from North Carolina to the Louisiana Territory "with nothing but a horse, bridle, and saddle." (BP photo)

"His story, his life, is stranger than fiction," said Randy Willis, a fourth-great-grandson of the church planter. "He was really shunned for over 100 years because of one statement in one book. Now suddenly he's become en vogue, on the 200th anniversary of Calvary Baptist Church and the 200th anniversary of the state of Louisiana."

Joseph Willis is being celebrated as the first man to preach a Baptist sermon west of the Mississippi River, perhaps as early as 1798, and the planter of dozens of churches in Louisiana as early as 1812, many of which still exist.

"Almost every Baptist church from central Louisiana to north Louisiana came eventually out of him," Randy Willis said. "You can almost draw a line at Bayou Chicot north to the northern border of Louisiana and it's primarily Baptist, and from south, where they ran him out, it's primarily Catholic."

This year, Louisiana College established the Joseph Willis Institute for Great Awakening Studies, aimed at encouraging spiritual revival. The institute and the Louisiana Baptist Convention are archiving the history of Willis, much of which was compiled by the late Greene Strother, a Willis descendant who was a Louisiana College alumnus and Southern Baptist missionary to China and Malaysia.

The institute was the brainchild of in-

ternational evangelist, Louisiana College alumnus, and Louisiana native Sammy Tippit, now of San Antonio, Texas. Tippit recently learned his ancestors, a mixture of Anglo and Nansemond Indian, donated the land on which the original Calvary Baptist Church was built, about a mile from the present location.

One of Tippit's fourth-great-grandmothers, Frances "Fannie" Sweat and her husband Gilbert Sweat, are recorded as having donated one acre of land to Willis for the church building.

"I thought I was this totally Caucasian white person," Tippit said. "Because of the mixed race, our family was very closed [about our heritage]."

"I feel like she was led to the Lord by Willis," Tippit said of Frances Sweat, whose ancestors migrated to Louisiana from the Pee Dee River area of South Carolina. "Baptist work was started not by white Anglos, but people of color. I would dare to say that 99% of Southern Baptists in America don't have a clue about that."

Tippit has documentation verifying his heritage and his family's contributions to Baptist history. Their names are listed in the 1810 U.S. Census, Tippit said, as free persons of color.

"I've had this burden for a center for spiritual awakening to really bring the vision for spiritual ... revival to this generation of young people, because I think

we've lost a lot of our history and a lot of our ... understanding of where we come from as a people in this country," Tippit said, "and along with that I realized... most people have never heard of Joseph Willis, a man of mixed race who came here, was born of a Cherokee slave."

"The first arrow shot across the Mississippi River to bring the Gospel was a man of color, a person born as a slave, and it was people of color who joined to start these churches," Tippit said. "Southern Baptists have a rich, rich heritage that most of us are not even aware of."

Tippit would like to see the United States transformed by a great awakening reminiscent of the late 18th- and mid-19th centuries.

"One of the characteristics of the Second Great Awakening is that it was very egalitarian. In the Second Great Awakening... the brotherhood in Christ was stronger than how much wealth you had," Tippit said. "You look in the minutes of those early churches Joseph Willis started, you have people of all races, and then you find that as the Second Awakening began to wind down, they lost that and there was segregation in the churches."

"That spoke to me to say, 'We've lost our sense of history. We've lost our sense of who we are,'" Tippit said. "A lot of the problems we face today, in our culture and in our world, are just because we've lost the sense of who we are."

Institute director Rod Masteller said Louisiana College is developing a repository for online study, will sponsor symposiums, and is partnering with several likeminded groups to strategically encourage revival. The school hopes to equip about 10 core pastors to teach others to pray for spiritual awakening.

"My conviction is that I don't think America can survive the moral collapse that we've experienced and that the only hope for turning it around is in our prayer life, in our purity, and through a spiritual awakening," Masteller said, "and we believe that could very well come through pastors."

"I believe it's the nation's only hope. I am totally convinced that the biggest problem we have in America is a spiritual problem. That we've been so spoiled economically — blessed, as we would call it, financially — that we have neglected real surrender to our Lord through the Holy Spirit, and instead of being able to stand strongly, we've become weak and we've allowed our nation to fall into the hands of those who would not agree with our biblical worldview."

"I am convinced the only hope, the only hope for America, if we are going to escape the judgment of God, is to return to Him and to His work, and that's what this institute's about."

The institute is archetypal Willis, said Randy Willis, who believes his ancestor's life of trial and fortitude will encourage pastors in evangelism today.

"It really dawned on me that this story could be used to inspire missionaries, to encourage people that are discouraged," Randy Willis said. "It's not to lift up Joseph Willis. I think the one driving force is the name of Jesus be lifted up, and if the name of Jesus can be lifted up through this story, then I'm all for this story getting out there."

"The life of Joseph Willis will draw people to Christ."

In recent days I have come down with a terrible illness. The symptoms are occasional dizziness, every once in a while I will be nauseated, and from time to time I am slightly depressed. In listening to other folks talk about their illnesses I began to realize that there were others who had the same symptoms that I did. I wondered if I had been infected with the West Nile virus or whatever the latest thing is going around the schools or grandkids had jumped on me. Nothing seemed to make sense. I started to go to the doctor and have some tests run, but it wasn't of a critical nature and so I decided to try to get through it the best I could and maybe it would go away. But the conditions just continued to hang on week after week and month after month. And then one day the light came on and I realized what I had. I did not go to a doctor and I did not get out my medical dictionary, but I simply figured it out by myself. I had developed "pollitis." I had never had it before, but I seemed to have it now. I am sharing this with you simply because some of you may have developed it and thought that you were really very sick when you may not be.

Pollitis is that condition that begins to affect you in a big political year when all of the national pollsters are at work trying to tell you the various percentage of change and who is ahead in what race every day. In this year, it comes and goes. One day it is Romney in the lead and the next day it is Obama in the lead. The next day it is tied, and then there is a big shift, and then a slide in the polls. Over and over the results are given, the discussions take place, and the election is still a long way off.

I did not realize it, but I have just gotten sick of polls. The reason I discovered



## Plagued by Pollitis

what had happened to me is that some company had done a poll on how the American people felt about polls. That poll revealed that the American people were sick of polls. I was relieved to find that out because apparently a lot of other people across America had been plagued with pollitis.

Of course, polls are not a new thing. It is just that through the years they have gotten to be more and more important and more sophisticated in their ability to take a picture of voting blocks and how they seem to be leaning or what they were thinking at the moment when the poll was taken. Many years ago when I was a college student a polling company hired some of the students from our campus to go out and gather information on the upcoming presidential election. It was amazing as I look back on it. I traveled to several counties around where I was in school just picking out a neighborhood and going door to door

filling out the sheets of information. I do not ever remember receiving a phone call from a pollster, but I do know that I was involved in gathering the information. Since I was younger at the time, my immune system was probably a whole lot better and I did not get pollitis. Plus I was getting paid for my work and being a part of the polls did not make me feel bad. To the contrary, it made me feel good.

Here are the facts. All of the polls that have been taken, are being taken, and will be taken do not mean anything of significance compared to the poll that will be taken on November 6. I want to encourage everyone to vote. I believe that as a part of our Christian stewardship we have a responsibility to participate in the election of our leaders. Your vote can make a difference and making a difference is worthy of your Christian expression in this culture. I have heard so many people say something about the

fact that they did not like either one of the presidential candidates. In a world where smear tactics are a part of almost every political race, it is hard to imagine that anyone could run and look even remotely sane or moral. But this election goes far beyond just the presidential vote. There are ballot decisions that will be made by our participation that will make a difference in the Congress and some state and local offices. You do not need to stay at home and dismiss all of those vital positions. Get up, get ready, and go vote! You may need to get a shot for your pollitis, but get up and go vote.

Now the best thing that I can tell you about pollitis is that it will probably get better as soon as the election is over. But even a better thing that I can tell you is the best things are not affected by the polls. Our God reigns! Every once in a while they may take a survey or a poll asking how many people believe in God, but you can mark this down. He is not affected or in any way diminished in power or love by what we think. He is not on the ballot in the November election nor will He ever be. He heads up every dimension of every phase of the universe, and He is not at all threatened by you or me, our lack of faith, our sins, irresponsibility, or immorality. He will hold us responsible for our actions and as the Scripture says, "So then every one of us will give an account of himself to God" (Rom. 14:12). This is not a voted-on position and there are no polls to question whether or not He is going to be in charge. He is and He will be. Our choice is to turn to Him and be what He wants us to be.

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(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails (Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS)	0	0
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(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies (Included on PS Form 3841)	666	663
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16. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: **W. A. Perkins, Jr., Editor** Date: **9-21-12**

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).





**TWO CHURCHES, ONE FOUNDER** — Thomas Walker (left) and Reginald Arvie, pastor two separate churches in Bayou Chicot, La., that both trace their founding to the historic Baptist preacher Joseph Willis, who established the first church west of the Mississippi River. (BP photo)

# Oldest Baptist churches west of Miss. River claim same heritage

**BAYOU CHICOT, La. (BP)** — Two churches sit just up the road from one another in this unincorporated town so small there's no official population count. Both claim roots as old as Baptist evangelism west of the Mississippi River.

Calvary Baptist Church, a white Southern Baptist church at 1059 Calvary Baptist Road, and the African American St. James Baptist Church at 3378 Highway 167 North, both trace their founding to Joseph Willis, a former slave of white and Cherokee heritage.

Both congregations say they are the church Willis founded in 1812 in Bayou Chicot and are celebrating their bicentennials this year, each laying claim as the oldest Baptist church in Louisiana — but the churches are not fighting over the distinction. Instead the two young bivocational pastors, Reginald Arvie of St. James and Thomas Walker of Calvary, are working to heal wounds and remove barriers.

"Pastor Walker and I, we're younger pastors, and so a lot of... the mindset of the older people, we don't have that," said Arvie, an African American pastor affiliated with the National Baptist Convention. "A lot of the boundaries, the walls that have been set up in that community, we don't see those things I guess first of all because of the way we were raised, our generation, and then second of all because we're both new to the area."

"From what I gather, the people don't mind being together in town. Seems like everyone knows everyone, both white and black," Arvie said, "but Sunday is probably the most segregated day in Chicot, because everybody goes their separate ways, and that's something he and I have discussed and a barrier we would like to tear down."

Walker's wife Gabrielle, a history professor at Baptist-affiliated Louisiana College in Pineville who has researched the churches' histories, said, "We are really hoping that this will become an opportunity for racial healing."

Much of the history of the two churches is not known. They trace their roots to Willis, born in 1758 Bladen County, N.C., to a wealthy English plantation owner and his slave, reportedly Cherokee. Historians say the church planter kept a diary, now lost.

The original Calvary Baptist Church included free whites and African American slaves, sources agree. Willis, who in 1787 gained freedom from slavery in a bill his first cousin John Willis introduced to the North Carolina legislature, himself owned slaves.

According to historians, Opelousas Court House documents show Willis buying and selling land and slaves in Bayou Chicot, including the sale of a slave for \$500 and the purchase of a slave for \$800, both in 1809, and the sale of three slaves for \$1,500 in 1829.

Neither the date nor the reason African Americans left Calvary Baptist Church to form St. James Baptist Church is documented, but Arvie makes certain assumptions based on restrictions historically placed on African American slaves.

Arvie speculates that when Joseph Willis secured ordination from the nearest Baptist association, the Mississippi Baptist Association, after several attempts, Willis had to separate the black and white members into two congregations.

"Calvary has a lot of history as well as a lot of black history... because Calvary was a white church at the same time [Joseph Willis] pastored some of the slaves there. From my understanding, during those times, it was almost impossible for a black church to be part of a white association, Baptist association," Arvie said.

"This is just speculation, but I'm gathering because of the African American members he had there, that gave him some problems as well [seeking ordination]. I'm almost positive that it did because he made three trips there [to the Mississippi Baptist Association] and I believe on the third trip some members of the association came and they installed

Calvary as part of the Baptist association. I assume that he then had to make changes," Arvie said.

William Paxton recorded in his 1888 book, *A History of the Baptists of Louisiana*, that the Mississippi association in 1812 sent two men to Bayou Chicot to ordain Willis and constitute a church.

"On their arrival at Bayou Chicot, in the parish of St. Landry, which was one of the places at which Mr. Willis preached, they found five brethren and one sister, whom they constituted into a church called Calvary," Paxton wrote. "The church was constituted November 13th, 1812, the first in the State. At the same time, at the request of the newly constituted church, they proceeded to ordain Joseph Willis as their pastor."

Randy Willis, the church planter's fourth great-grandson, a genealogist, and historian in Austin, Texas, said blacks and whites likely worshipped together unrestricted in Calvary Baptist Church at the time.

"I mean Joseph Willis, if you look at the rolls, [there were] so many people getting saved. He's got different races going to his church. He made no distinction between them," Randy Willis said.

"Obviously with millions of slaves in the South, there's prejudice prior to the Civil War but the reason blacks became Baptists after the Civil War was primarily the denomination. It was not really theology... Churches were autonomous, and the slaves wanted to rule their own churches and you can't blame them."

Upon Willis' ordination and Calvary Baptist Church's installation into the Baptist association, the two congregations — one white, the other black — likely began worshipping separately in the same building in order to comply with probable rules and regulations of the association separating the races, Arvie speculates.

He has found no records documenting when St. James Baptist Church became an individual congregation nor when the church built a separate building, although its current location was built in the early 1970s, Arvie said.

The original location of Calvary Baptist Church is believed to have been in the center of town, on the site of what is now Vandenberg Cemetery. The present church is currently in its third facility.

Walker describes Calvary Baptist Church as committed to spreading the Gospel, with a heritage of church planting that began with Willis. When Willis and others founded the Louisiana Baptist Association in Cheneyville in 1818, all five charter member churches were outgrowths of Willis' ministry.

"Our first church plant is 195 years old. Our newest church ministry/plant is about seven months old," Walker said. "As far as we can tell, we have planted churches throughout every generation of the church."

"Calvary has accepted the Acts 1:8 challenge. Calvary is not just an old Southern Baptist church. It is a prime example of what every SBC church should strive to be like. We are faithful in doctrine, in witness, in unity, and seek to fulfill the Great Commission," Walker said.

Calvary Baptist Church's most recent mission is New Beginnings in Bunkie, La., which Walker said likely will remain in mission status for some time.

Approaching the bicentennial, Walker and Arvie have held joint activities, such as shared Vacation Bible School nights, and expressed hopes of preaching in one another's pulpits before the anniversary. The two men are friends and Walker has invited Arvie to join the Southern Baptist Convention.

"At one time, I was slowly prodding him to become SBC, but they are happy with their [National Baptist] district," Walker said. "I brought a light fixture over to replace his single light bulb fixture in his office, so now our friendship between the churches shines every time he turns on the light."

## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

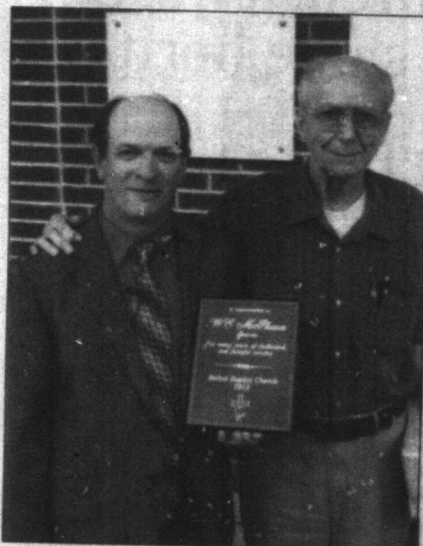
Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

## Just for the Record



**BETHEL CHURCH, COLUMBUS,** honored W.C. McPherson with a plaque Sept. 16 for 59 years of service as deacon and in other positions in the church. Shown are pastor Walter Butler, left, and McPherson.

Preschoolers from **FIRST CHURCH, VANCLEAVE,** participated in See You at the Pole. Randy McKee, pastor.



**WEST END CHURCH, WEST POINT,** presented Regina Bird a gift and flowers for 56 years of service as organist and church secretary for 40+ years. Shown are minister of music Jerome Key and Bird.



**(AT LEFT) MORRISON CHAPEL CHURCH, CLEVELAND,** ordained Oscar Poe as deacon Sept. 16. Shown are Poe and pastor John Thomas.

**(AT RIGHT) SHELTON CHURCH, MOSELLE,** recognized Scott and Dallas Williamson for three years of perfect attendance in Sunday School. Shown are Elaine Eavenson and the Williamsons.



### In other Church News:

► **Meadowview Church, Starkville,** is hosting a men's conference, Men's Advance & Training, Oct. 5 - 6. Leaders include Jim Futral, Gerald Simmons, Bill Trainor, Grant Arinder, Kenny Digby, Ronald Meeks, Chip Stevens, and Jacky Ward. Registration, \$65. For more information, visit [www.mbestark.com](http://www.mbestark.com), or register at (662) 323-2963.

► Don Piper, author, 90 Minutes in Heaven, will speak at **Country Woods Church, Byram,** Oct. 20, The Blessing of the Hunt Banquet, 5:30 p.m.; tickets available through the church @ \$10 per person; 12 and under free. Also at the morning worship gathering Oct. 21, 10:30 a.m.

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## College News



Dan Jones, chancellor, University of Mississippi, has been named **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR** for 2012. He will be honored during homecoming festivities Oct. 26 - 27. He is a 1971 graduate of MC and has been serving as chancellor of Ole Miss since June, 2009.



Three **BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE** ministerial students were recently awarded Board of Ministerial Education Scholarships: Thomas Doughty, Trent Nethery and Gabe Dence. From left to right at the banquet are Ronald Meeks, professor of Biblical and associated studies at BMC; Doughty, the recipient of the Ernest Pinson Scholarship; Trent Nethery, recipient of the Therman Bryant Scholarship; Gabe Dence, recipient of the Pinson Scholarship; Doug Bain, chair of the Department of Biblical and Associated Studies at BMC; Barbara Childers McMillin, BMC president; and Jim Futral, executive director and treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

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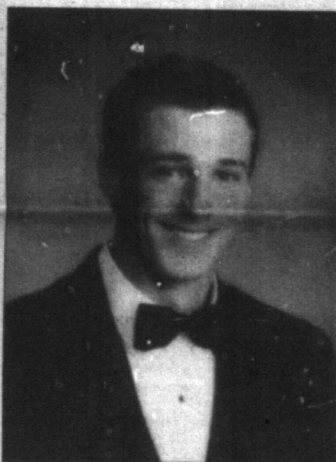
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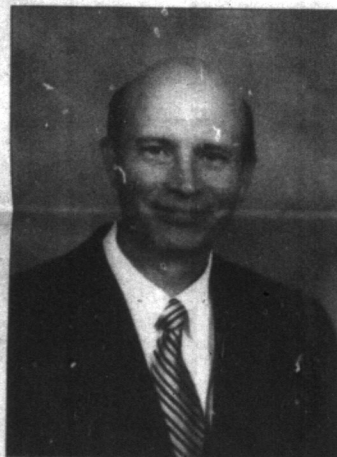
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## Staff Changes



**TOOMSUBA CHURCH, LAUDERDALE ASSOCIATION,** has called Blake McMullen as minister of students. This is McMullen's first place of service.



**INGOMAR CHURCH, UNION COUNTY ASSOC.,** recently called Terry Cutrer as pastor.

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1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

*"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name."* (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

# WMU to start new web-based ministry for young adult women

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)** — The national Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) has announced myMISSION, a new, primarily web-based organization for young adult women in missions.

Jean Roberson, national WMU ministry consultant, said the new initiative celebrates young women as a force for Christ. "[Young women] combine their desire for a deep, authentic faith and a passion for reaching those who are suffering in this world. We hope myMISSION can be that place where faith and practice meet."

The new organization builds on the website, mymissionfulfilled.com, that WMU created in 2007 to provide missions discipleship resources to the next generation of young women.

The organization will connect young women through Bible studies, community events and missions projects.

The Web site features mission Bible studies and products, interactive blogs from six young adult women in different stages of life, and articles on such topics as prayer, social justice, time management, money, and relationships.

The site offers event planning guides and get-started kits for churches, schools and others interested in beginning myMISSION groups.

The first myMISSION Bible study is myGod: A Study on the Attributes of God. This 15-session study focuses on five attributes of God: Creator, All-Seeing, Leader, Relater and Redeemer. In each unit, young

women will engage in Bible study, community building, and a hands-on missions project.

A unique feature of the site is a community art gallery allowing members to share their individually created art.

"Art is an outlet for people to express themselves while connecting to others" said site content manager Courtney Simpson. "It can be an expression of worship, and it is not bound by language, culture or ability. Anyone can create art and it can connect us to the 'creator' attribute of God."

"Ideally, a myMISSION group develops Biblical knowledge, grows in Biblical community and provides opportunities to share the knowledge of Christ with others through missions," Simpson said.

## Just for the Record



### GILLSBURG CHURCH, GILLSBURG,

hosted a wild game supper on the first day of fall. Shown are Dalton Reed Williams, Davin Hughes, Brady Wilson, Conner Wilson, Rowdy Williams, and Bailey Hughes.

### FIRST CHURCH, NETTLETON,

recently ordained Bradley Cheek as deacon. Shown are pastor Donald Pounders, Cheek, and Matt Tyler.



**FIRST CHURCH, WINONA,** ordained six men as deacons Sept. 23. Shown are Joey Tompkins, Joel Robertson, Cory Wade, Ranny Henson, Charlie Parkerson, and John Arendale. Chris Aldridge, pastor.

## Revivals & Homecomings

► **Midway Church, Carthage:** 175th anniversary, Oct. 7; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by meal; Tyrone Wells, speaker; Eddie Pilgrim, music.

as & Willa Moak, music.

► **Immanuel Church, Panola County:** Revival, Oct. 7 - 10; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Tony Monk, speaker.

► **Macedonia Church, Sherman:** Centennial celebration and homecoming, Oct. 7, 10 a.m. - noon, followed by lunch; Thomas Vinson, speaker; Terry Faulkner, pastor.

► **First Church, Aberdeen:** 175th Anniversary/revival, Oct. 7 - 10; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Paul Matthews, speaker; Bob Bailey and Andy Hammond, music.

► **Smyrna Church, Hazlehurst:** Homecoming, Oct. 7; services, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Millard Mackey, speaker; By His Grace, music.

► **Monument Drive Church, Tupelo:** Homecoming, Oct. 7; services, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Tommy Tackett, speaker; Saving Grace, music.

► **Mt. Pleasant Church, Bogus Chitto:** 175th homecoming, Oct. 7; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing; Gayle Alexander, speaker; Thom-

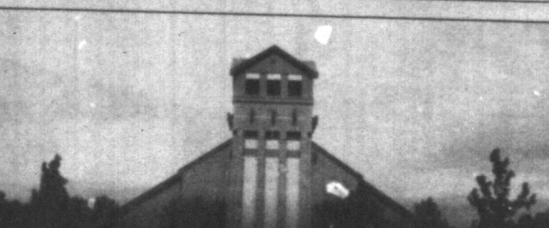
► **Beulah Church, Myrtle:** Homecoming, Oct. 7; services, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; Tommy Snyder, speaker; Masters Quartet, music.

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# Russian church's demolition increases fear of persecution

**MOSCOW (BP)** — It was in the early hours of the morning on Sept. 6 when Pastor Vasili Romanyuk's phone rang. A group of men backed by local police were demolishing his Holy Trinity Pentecostal Church, housed in a three-story building nestled in a Moscow suburb.

As word spread, congregants arrived at the scene hoping to save the building, but their efforts were futile. By dawn the church was in ruins and some of its most valuable contents were missing.

An isolated incident? A misunderstanding? Analysts watching the current climate in the former Cold War country don't think so. "This destruction of the church is about as concrete of evidence as you can get that something very bad and very troubling is tak-

ing place," said Katrina Lantos Swett, chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. "This could not have happened without the backing, support, and implicit blessing of the police."

The incident is just one sign of deteriorating freedoms in Russia, and behind the scenes a cozy relationship between the Kremlin and the Russian Orthodox Church has raised more than a few eyebrows.

As President Vladimir Putin digs into his third term, a number of Kremlin crackdowns involving vague interpretations of the country's extremism law and other human-rights abuses are troubling signs that the country has slipped into a familiar, repressive era. "When you have unknown people backed by the

police coming out at midnight to begin tearing down a church, you know something doesn't smell right," Lantos Swett said.

Officials evicted Holy Trinity Church from its original building in 1995 and relocated the church to the eastern Moscow suburb. The congregation used its own funds to construct a new building and repeatedly battled officials over permits.

The church's demolition and its history reflect an emerging pattern. Authorities confiscate land from non-favored religious communities and force the congregation to relocate to a remote suburb, the religious leaders apply for permits that are subsequently denied, and officials confiscate (once again) or demolish the relocated congregation, citing lack of proper documentation.

Pastor Romanyuk and a small group of the church's 550 congregants arrived on site around 3:30 a.m. as about 45 men claiming to be civil volunteers blocked them from the building and threw stones.

"When I arrived, I just burst into tears," 25-year-old Natalya Cherevichnik told The Moscow Times as she surveyed the destruction. "I couldn't believe that something that had been built over several years could be destroyed in a few hours."

Police arrived but did nothing to stop the razing. Furniture, instruments, computer equipment, and chalices for the Eucharist were among the items taken from the church.

Romanyuk has been fighting an uphill battle with the public prosecutor of Moscow's Eastern

Administrative District. According to Forum 18, a Moscow-based news service covering religious liberty in the region, the prosecutor filed suit against the church in 2010, demanding it vacate the site despite the fact that the congregation was originally given permission to use the land.

City officials told Romanyuk last month that the church would be destroyed by Sept. 15, but delivered nothing official about what was to take place. "We didn't believe they would just do this," Romanyuk told Forum 18.

According to a report in The Moscow Times, the city plans to build a giant sports complex on the land.

*Editor's note: The article was first published by World News Service. Used by permission.*

## MS POSITIONS

**TWIN LAKES BAPTIST, MADISON, MS** IS SEEKING A PART-TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTER. Please mail resume to 673 Lake Cavalier Road, Madison, Ms 39110 or e-mail to cindyhol2002@yahoo.com

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**CORNERSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH, A MEMBER OF THE UNION COUNTY ASSOCIATION, LOCATED ON THE UNION & MARSHALL COUNTY LINE, IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR.** Resumes may be mailed to Cornersville Baptist Church, C/O L.A. Rhea, 1114 CR 1, Hickory Flat, MS 38633.

**THE TRI-COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS RECEIVING RESUMES FOR THE POSITION OF ASSOCIATE ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS DIRECTOR.** Resumes may be sent to tricountyexcom@gmail.com or P. O. Box 350, Columbia, MS 39429.

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## VALUES

cont. from p. 1

understand that it is a duty as well as a right to vote, and to willingly choose not to vote is to turn our backs on the values that have meant so much to us as a nation and the sacrifices that have been made to ensure that right.

"With our country under attack on all sides from the forces of Godlessness and secularism, Christians should consider it doubly important to vote their values this year."

Jimmy Porter is executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, an agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. "In a democratically-elected republic like the United States, the most precious right we have is the privilege to vote. This one act, more than any other, signifies that our forefathers intended for

the power of this country to be invested in hands of the people.

"When individuals cast their ballots, they are electing candidates who will directly or indirectly influence the course of our country. No nation is without political failures and evil practices, even ours, and while voting gives us an opportunity to make corrections, the failure to vote implies that we are complicit with a government that ignores the core values that have been the trademarks of our republic.

"If I desire to have a part in plotting the future of our country, then I must cherish the privilege and honor the right to vote."

Richardson said a number of state Baptist conventions have requested permission to broadcast the commercial/video in their locales, with their own customized tags in the closing shot. Those state conventions include: Alaska, Michigan, West Virgin-

ia, Indiana, Florida, Arkansas, South Carolina, Illinois, Maryland/Delaware, and Kentucky.

"The commercial/video, produced right here in Mississippi by Mississippi Baptists, will receive a great deal of exposure across a significant portion of the country," Richardson observed.

Richardson pointed out that the commercial/video can be customized with the tag of an individual church or other Baptist organization, for use on local cable systems and other broadcast outlets.

To view and download the commercial/video, visit www.mbb.org. For more information on how to utilize the commercial/video before the Nov. 6 election, contact Richardson at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3378 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 378. E-mail: irichardson@mbcb.org.

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UZXC HY Z OHUZP, UZXC EPXCI JBC QZO.

NZQZJKZPV YHEI: YHWI

Clue: B = H

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans Ten: Eleven

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## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

### SEPTEMBER 2012

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Taylor Capwell  
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Madison Drake  
Ms. Lindsay T. Wynne  
Stribling Hargett  
Ms. Lindsay T. Wynne  
Jonathan Hester  
Jack & Ann Alexander  
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Ms. Lindsay T. Wynne  
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Mr. Clarence M. Shannon  
Merita Koll  
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Kristen Overall  
Ms. Lindsay T. Wynne  
Dottie Reed  
Mrs. Frances Aiken  
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Ms. Lindsay T. Wynne  
J. C. Simmons  
Ms. Lindsay T. Wynne  
Kelli Stainback  
Ms. Lindsay T. Wynne  
Katie Turner  
Ms. Lindsay T. Wynne  
Alex Waldrup  
Ms. Lindsay T. Wynne

#### MEMORIALS

Barbra & Kaye  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike B. Thompson  
Mother of Ed Tonore  
Tommy & Sheila Bryson  
Mother of Kim Hurdle  
Ms. Helen Russom

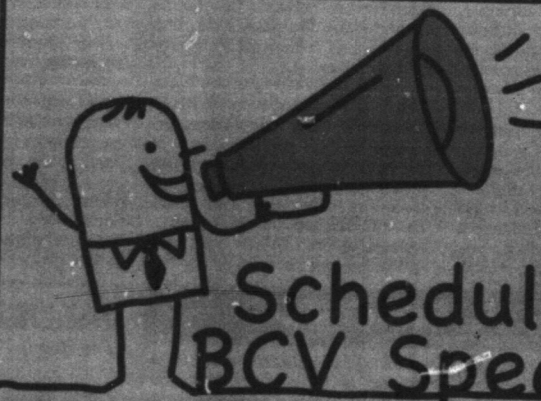
Ms. Ruby Anders  
Barney & Paula Albritton  
David Arrington  
David & Kim Furr  
Mrs. Billie Marie Rushing  
Mr. Joe Barber  
Mrs. Martha W. Bozeman  
Mrs. LaNelle Bouchillon  
Philene & Stuart Allen  
Mr. & Mrs. R. N. Humphreys  
Johnny Boyte  
Stanton BC, Natchez  
Mrs. Henry (Marie Tyler) Bryan  
Arty & Amy Finkelberg  
Jahazel Buckley  
Mr. Ted Buckley  
Dick Burgett  
Bill & Carol Harris  
Boone Carroll  
Mr. Homer F. Woodruff  
Dr. Bill Causey  
Mr. Eugene H. Dobbs  
Ben Chapman  
John & Lynn Stratton  
Bobby Chipley  
Mrs. E. M. Linsley  
Mrs. Doris Cole  
Ms. Bernice Sherill  
Mrs. Kathryn Shivers  
Mrs. Gladys Dykes  
Mrs. Anna K. Cockerham  
Christine Earnest  
Cross Roads BC, Mantec  
Frances W. Easter  
Mr. Rivers R. Catledge  
A. C. Elliott  
Jim & June Blair  
Mr. Will Ervin  
Carl & Carolyn Boone  
Mrs. Norma B. Fancher  
Men's SSC, FBC Jonesboro  
Bonnie Farr  
Philene & Stuart Allen  
Billy Fleming  
The Holiday Club

Mr. Jerry Fry  
David & Martha Busby  
Jimmy & Jo Ann Carruth  
Effie Clark  
Nancy & Ron Craddock  
Travis & Joyce Davs  
Ms. Jean A. Fauth  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory F. Holcomb  
Ms. Pauline M. Holcomb  
D. J. & Judy Holland  
David & Yea-Mei Lee  
Mr. & Mrs. Trent Martin  
Judy & Cliff Mote  
Mrs. Dora Murray  
Ms. Elizabeth Baron  
Pahlke  
Carol Watts  
John & Brenda Werner  
Jennings & Betty Sue Dixon  
Willene Fryery  
Dr. Michael Ard & Family  
Geneva Gardner  
Mr. Bobby C. Gardner  
Lewis Wesley "Buster" Gerald  
Jennings & Betty Sue Dixon  
Forrest & Lois Goss  
Mrs. Georgia G. McCormick  
Mrs. Candace Cason Grantham  
Family of Bob Grantham  
Family of Lorraine Oakman  
Family of Steve Grantham  
Cecelia Grayson  
Mike & Suzanne Allen & Family  
Vivian Hall  
Mike & Cheryl Calcote  
Mr. Robert B. Hamilton Sr  
Jesse & Gwen Matthews  
Mr. Joe Hazlip  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Barnes  
Mr. & Mrs. Austin Hester  
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Routh, Jr  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Weeks  
Mildred Hennington  
Montrose BC, Quitman  
John Charland Homod  
Mrs. Billie Marie Rushing  
Paul B. Jackson  
Ryan & Whitney Holmes  
Ceryl Johnson  
Mrs. Margie B. Maynard  
Wilma Kidd  
FBC of Sanlando Springs  
Mrs. Louise Kilpatrick  
James & Peggy Palmer  
Eddie & Jane Woodruff  
Allan Kittrell  
Ms. Louise F. Hollingsworth  
Mr. & Mrs. William M. Coleman  
Nona Lattimore  
Bill & Carol Harris  
Mr. Charles Lofton  
Barney & Paula Albritton  
Cindy Grantham Long  
Mark & Sally Smith  
Bessie Lott  
Charles & Cindy Martin  
Edna Pritchett Massey  
Philene & Stuart Allen  
Bernard Matthews  
Joy SSC, Central BC  
Khristen McClure  
Ms. Georgia Ziegler  
Annette McDonald  
Charles & Cindy Martin  
John McMahon  
Stanton BC, Natchez  
Mr. Kenneth McNeese  
Ms. Bernice Sherill  
Mrs. Kathryn Shivers  
Hubert Mills  
Mrs. E. M. Linsley  
Mr. Everett Mills  
Jim & Pat Callender  
Rudy & Lynn Robbins

Richard Monk  
Mrs. Helen Brown  
James Hart Morrow  
Mr. & Mrs. William M. Coleman  
Henrietta Mortensen  
Morgan Chapel BC WMU,  
Sturgis  
Mrs. Josie Murray  
Charles & Jo Blackwell  
William Murry  
Frances & Rich

Defenbaugh  
Marie Noland  
Mr. & Mrs. William M. Coleman  
Mrs. Rita Nordan  
Rev. & Mrs. Jimmy Breland  
Lora Jean Odom  
Perry County 4-H Horse Club  
Mr. & Mrs. Jessie L. Odom  
Mrs. J. V. (Mary Katherine)

Parker  
BTI of North America  
Mr. Walter R. Martindale III  
Ms. Betty C. Moore  
M. Ruth B. O'Neil  
Tom & Billie Sawyer  
Jim & Mona Hearn  
Sally Hefner & Family  
Merle & Mike McDermott  
Mrs. Joel "Bunchie" Payne  
Mrs. Gerry McGraw



With your new church year beginning, now is a great time to schedule a speaker from The Baptist Children's Village to come share an update about the ministry as well and project ideas. We have staff that travel across the state that speak to groups of all ages and any one of them would be happy to come to visit with your church group.

Contact Celeste Cade at [ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com](mailto:ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com) or 601-922-2242 to make arrangements.

## BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The BCV employs Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife teams, without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of Houseparents. The couples must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff.

They receive a salary with benefits and are provided a private bedroom and meals while on duty. The primary job responsibility of Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and youth residents. They are the primary caregivers and help with everything from transportation and homework to laundry and meals when on duty.

Houseparent responsibilities are varied and somewhat dependent upon which campus and to which cottage the couple is assigned. However, all Houseparents need to be in good physical, mental and emotional health. They must be cooperative and comfortable working in a team environment.

To apply for the current Houseparent openings, please contact Celeste Cade at [ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com](mailto:ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com) or 601-922-2242.

A complete job description and application may be downloaded at [www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com).



## Living at Home • 1 Peter 3:1-12

Try to imagine a world without laws. Without the law of gravity the earth would shoot out of its orbit like a bullet from a rifle, making life unsustainable. Without the laws of society thieves would help themselves to the treasures you've collected over your lifetime, making life barbaric.

Now try to imagine a home without God's laws. Without the laws and principles of the Bible, there would be no basis for right and wrong. Kids would tell the parents what to do. Husbands would beat their wives, and wives would seek relationships with men who are not their husbands. A society like that would self-destruct.

Thanks be to God, He has provided laws to govern the home, church, and society. His laws provide order and equity so that, when followed, everyone can be happy.

Consider three laws that emerge from today's text as the basis for healthy homes, churches and communities.

### 1. SUBMISSION (v. 1, NIV)

*Wives...be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives...*

I take a risk putting this word out there, because it is hated by so many in our society. But submission is one of God's laws that is required for peace and order in the

home, church and society. This word is hated by women today because so many men have abused it over the millennia of time. Today many women have a choice to obey or not obey this law.

Why is the law of submission important? It is "part" of God's divine order in creation. All institutions, governments, companies, schools, churches and homes must have recognized leadership. And God has ordained from the beginning that a husband is to be the leader of his home.

Another reason this command is important is that men are often more reluctant to embrace spiritual things than women. On any given Sunday there will be more women in most churches than men. Ladies, you are far more likely to win your husbands to Christ with a gentle, humble, holy, approach than with an argumentative spirit.

### 2. CONSIDERATION (v. 7, NIV)

*Husbands...be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat*

*them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.*

There is always a shoe for the other foot, and men, this one's for you. Men are called by God to be the leaders in their

homes, but they are also accountable to God for the type of leadership they provide.

Women are usually physically weaker than men, so they can't physically fight to assert or defend themselves. Men need to understand that their wives are physically weaker, but not spiritually inferior and respect the fact that God made them that way. Wives are to be treated as equal heirs to eternal life and as partners in this life.

The idea of your prayers being hindered needs special attention here. God sees it when a man is inconsiderate toward his wife or when a person in the church is inconsiderate of others. A selfish person may be stronger at home or church, but he's not stronger than

God. God sees and disciplines his children for such.

### 3. HARMONIZATION (v. 8, NIV)

*Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another...*

I'm not a musician, but I have learned that a "melody" is the main tune of a song and that "harmony" is the blending of other parts to enhance the song. The command to "live in harmony with one another" is a command for all Christians. The "melody" is the Word of God. "Harmony" occurs when we all strive to blend our talents, skills, desires and spiritual gifts in ways that enhance the message of Christ.

In the home, husbands and wives are to blend their unique strengths and weaknesses with the clear word of God to create a home that honors and glorifies Christ. In the church, leaders and members are called to do the same, creating a climate where Christ is exalted. God is glorified, and the lost are drawn into the family of God.

Communities are blessed by harmonious homes and churches. Let's all strive not to sing above the rest, but to sing a harmony through which Christ is blessed.

Bishop is a member of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.



Explore the Bible  
with David B. Bishop

## From Failure to Salvation • John 4:7-18, 25-26, 39

Jesus has left Judea to return to Galilee. He must pass through Samaria in order to witness to them. He and disciples, tired, hungry, and thirsty, chose to rest in Sychar at Jacob's well, a remarkable landmark. It was 9 feet across and 105 feet deep, with great depths of water. The metaphor on water is not wasted, for before salvation, we are barren and there is no sap until the Lord bathes us with his Spirit to invigorate life and bring it to perfection.

What a sweet and warm story of Jesus' conversation with the woman in Samaria. Matthew blesses us with this longest one on one encounter Jesus had during his ministry. It was high noon and Jesus was resting while the disciples went to get food. There came a native woman carrying her water pot to the well. There was long established hatred and bitterness between Jews and Samaritans. These half-breeds were considered to be the scum of the earth, and for a Jew to drink water from the hand of a Samaritan was thought to be unclean.

The Jews detested them for their corruption of the worship process. Jesus had no such prejudice, but because of love from the Heavenly Father, he saw something in the adulterous woman worth forgiving. His mission was to reach every

nation, including the Samaritans, so he opens the conversation asking her for a drink.

V. 9, she questions him "how can you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?" Jesus explained, "you don't understand God's gift nor do you know who I am." She was not familiar with our verse, John 3:16 ("that whosoever..."), but she romanced the conversation with "Sir, you don't have a pail to draw water, and where do you get living water?" Jesus tenderly and incrementally leads her to an understanding of who he is and continues to enlighten her. The meeting was innocently begun about a drink to slake thirst, but worked into how He could satisfy a greater need for eternal life.

By V 12, she has caught the idea from this captivating Jesus that he is offering more than what she was getting from Ja-

cob's well. Jesus says call your husband to come here. He knows her past and so is able to deal with her sins. (How disingenuous is it to try to "hide" our faults from Jesus?) She sees his knowledge of her is beyond that of an ordinary person and so concludes he is a prophet. How amazing is God's goodness. Whosoever comes will be accepted. None of us are chosen to be disciples based on any merits. She is learn-



Bible Studies for Life  
with Evelyn Gibson

ing (could she have had a better teacher?) that it is faith in Him that saves and sanctifies. Jesus teaches her that God is not limited to one place, because He is a spirit. He didn't say that from the very first day we will be completely satisfied as we drink, but that the Holy Spirit is a fountain that flows continuously. We thirst again and again but the supply is ubiquitous.

The woman had some knowledge about religion probably from the Pentateuch

which teaches that all things become clear when the Messiah comes. Jesus took the opening to say "I am He, the very one speaking to you". She is now responsible and has to view him as the Christ, the promised Messiah. She cannot keep quiet but has to do something with this new revelation. She became a female missionary, a theologian, an ear and eye witness from Samaria. Other Samaritans listened well as Jesus tarried there two more days.

The woman learned that the law was not all inclusive, that this Christ is the teacher and instructor for the ungodly. She's believing Him, and needs look no further. How teachable are we? Jesus was using this encounter to teach the disciples about evangelism. One of our deepest hurdles on our journey is to get over "ourselves", and slay our habits. Don't allow our obstinacy to give us deaf ears.

They learned an encounter with Jesus is transforming, and Jesus proved that evangelism can be done well in a short time. He continues to teach using miracles in the presence of many witnesses so the sweetness of the news would spread. How can we not tell about such love?

Gibson is a member of Monticello Church, Monticello.

## GEORGE

cont. from p.2

the candidates of either party, or independents, standing for something that is intrinsically evil, evil no matter what the circumstances? If that's the

case, a Catholic, regardless of his party affiliation, shouldn't be voting for such a person." Examine!

■ Regardless of who wins the election in November, the spiritual and moral issues that ought to inform our political

acts will remain on the agenda. In seeking to make a wise decision based on a rightly informed conscience, we need to listen to God's voice in the Scriptures, learn as much as we can about the candidates and what they stand for, and turn to God in prayer.

These words spoken by God to the people of Israel long ago are still pertinent today: "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their

land." (2 Chronicles 7:14). Pray!

George is founding dean of Beeson Divinity School at Baptist-affiliated Samford University in Birmingham, AL. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

## Just for the Record



**BUNKER HILL CHURCH, COLUMBIA**, awarded perfect attendance pins Sept. 16. Sheron Lowery, front row far right, received a 1st year pin; from left, Charlie Fortenberry, Jile's Grice, Isabell Shivers, and Wanda Grice received 2nd year pins.



**CONCORD CHURCH, BENTON-TIPPAH ASSOCIATION**, honored pastor Robert E. Walker and his wife Bettye Aug. 8, for 30 years service as pastor and 58 years in ministry.



**NEW ZION CHURCH, BRAXTON:** Vacation Bible School; shown are the participants.



**BEACON STREET CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA**, held a deacon ordination Aug. 26. Shown are pastor Wayne Hill, Joe Spinks, and Jason Blair.



**TOOMSUBA CHURCH, TOOMSUBA**, licensed James Dean Caves into the gospel ministry. He served as a BSU Summer Missions Intern with the Gulf Correctional Institution of Florida. Shown are pastor David Caves, Caves, and Justin Busby.



The youth of **PLEASANT HILL CHURCH, TIPPACH COUNTY**, had a community clean-up day Sept. 15, followed by a cookout at Camp Creek Arena.



**ALGOMA CHURCH, ALGOMA**, presented pins for members with perfect attendance for at least one year. Shown are the members.



The eldest Baptist Women's group of **MT. ZION CHURCH, COLUMBUS**, are shown with pastor Steve Lammons. The group sewed lap robes for Christmas to give to residents of a local nursing home.